Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for converting inputted speech to text, comprising:

(a) a step of entering a sentence by speech~~inputting an utterance, said utterance comprised of a plurality of word-strings which each include one or more words~~;

(b) a step of recognizing a part of the entered speech, and determining candidates of word strings as a unit of one to several words from the recognized part of the entered speech~~determining candidates of word-strings which consist of one or more words of the inputted utterance by performing speech recognition processing on one of the plurality of word strings of the utterance~~;

(c) a step of displaying the candidates; and

(d) a step of allowing a user to select from the ~~selecting one of the~~ displayed candidates, ~~by a user, said candidate determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d) are repeated for each successive word string in said utterance until an end of the utterance is reached.~~

        wherein a remaining part of the entered speech is recognized by sequentially repeating the candidate determining step (b), the displaying step (c), and the selecting step (d), in a unit of the word string from a beginning of the entered speech.

2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Previously Presented) A method for converting inputted speech to text according to claim 22, wherein said candidate determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidates due to an acoustic score.

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4.   (Previously Presented) A method for converting inputted speech to text according to claim 3, wherein said extension process is ended by reaching of a number of phrase candidates subjected to said extension process by a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

5.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for converting inputted speech to text, comprising:

an input section for <u>entering</u> ~~inputting~~ a sentence by speech~~an utterance, said utterance comprised of a plurality of word-strings which each include one or more words~~;

~~an~~ <u>speech</u>~~utterance~~ pre-processing section for extracting a feature amount of the <u>entered speech</u>~~utterance~~ from said input section;

a word candidate preparing section for preparing a following word candidate from a fixed word-string;

a word-string preparing section for preparing word-string candidates<u> as a unit of one to several words</u> based on<u> recognizing a part of the entered speech using</u> ~~one to several words from~~ the extracted feature amount <u>corresponding to the part of the entered speech</u>~~of one of the plurality of word-strings of the utterance~~ and from the word candidate;

a display section for displaying the word-string candidates;

an operating section for a user to select one of the word-string candidates being displayed, the selected word-string candidate forming the fixed word-string; and

a candidate-preparation instructing section for instructing said word candidate preparing section to prepare the following word candidate from the fixed word-string selected by said operating section,

wherein said word-string preparing section <u>sequentially</u> repeats preparation of said word-string candidates for <u>a remaining part of the entered speech</u>~~each successive word-string in said utterance~~ using said following word candidate<u>, in a unit of the</u>

word-string from a beginning of the entered speech to recognize the remaining part of the entered speech until the end of the utterance is reached.

6.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus for converting inputted speech to text according to claim 5, wherein said word-string preparing section prepares a phrase-based candidate by an extension process to repeat word linking according to word-based linkage probability.

7.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus for converting inputted speech to text according to claim 6, wherein said word-string preparing section further having an updating process according to an acoustic score.

8.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus for converting inputted speech to text according to claim 7, wherein said word-string preparing section ends the extension process by reaching of a number of phrase candidates subjected to the extension process by a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

9.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus for converting inputted speech to text according to claim 5, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

10.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus for converting inputted speech to text according to claim 6, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

11.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus for converting inputted speech to text according to claim 7, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

12.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus for converting inputted speech to text according to claim 8, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

13.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by machine to perform method steps for converting inputted speech to text, said method repeating in order:

        (a) a step of entering a sentence by speech inputting an utterance, said utterance comprised of a plurality of word-strings which each include one or more words;

(b) a step of recognizing a part of the entered speech, and determining candidates of word-strings as a unit~~which consist~~ of one to several~~or more~~ words from the recognized part of the entered speech ~~of the inputted utterance by performing speech recognition processing on one of the plurality of word-strings of the utterance~~;

(c) a step of displaying the candidates; and

(d) a step of allowing a user to select from~~selecting one of~~ the displayed candidates ~~by a user;~~,

wherein a remaining part of the entered speech is recognized by sequentially repeating said candidate determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d)~~, are repeated for each successive word-string in said utterance~~in a unit of the word-string from a beginning of the entered speech ~~until an end of the utterance is reached~~.

14.   (Cancelled).

15.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said candidate determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidate according to an acoustic score.

16.   (Cancelled).

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by machine to perform method steps for converting inputted speech to text, said method repeating in order:

(a) a step of entering a sentence by speech~~inputting an utterance, said utterance comprised of a plurality of word-strings which each include one or more words~~;

(b) a step of recognizing a part of the entered speech, and determining candidates of word-strings as a unit ~~which consist~~ of one to several~~or more~~ words from the recognized part of the entered speech ~~of the inputted utterance by performing speech recognition processing on one of the plurality of word-strings of the inputted utterance~~;

(c) <u>a step of</u> displaying the candidates; and

(d) <u>a step of allowing a user to</u> select~~ing one of~~ <u>from</u> the displayed candidates ~~by a user~~;<u>,</u>

<u>wherein a remaining part of the entered speech is recognized by sequentially</u> <u>repeating</u> said candidate determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d)<u>,</u> ~~are repeated for each successive word-string in said utterance~~ <u>in a</u> <u>unit of the word-string from a beginning of the entered speech</u> ~~until an end of the~~ ~~utterance is reached~~.

18.   (Cancelled).

19.   (Previously Presented)   A computer program product according to claim 17, wherein said candidate determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidates due to an acoustic score.

20.   (Cancelled).

21.   (Previously Presented)   A method for converting inputted speech to text according to claim 1, wherein said candidate determining step (b) determines said candidates of word-strings on the basis of a language information and an acoustic information of the selected word-strings when there are preselected word strings.

22.   (Previously Presented)   A method for converting inputted speech to text according to claims 1 or 21, wherein at least one of said candidates of word-strings is a phrase built by an extension process to repeat word linking according to a word-based linkage probability on said candidate determining step (b).